

Tower Grove Park West Gatehouse and Gate  
(Park Structure 32 X)  
Tower Grove Park  
4255 Arsenal Street  
St. Louis  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-B

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MO,  
96-SALV,  
46B-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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TOWER GROVE PARK WEST GATEHOUSE AND GATE  
(Park Structure 32X)

Location: Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The structures are 600' south of the intersection of Kings Highway and Magnolia Avenue. The gate brackets the main east-west drive, and the house stands to the north of the drive.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 15.737920.4276590

Present Owner: City of St. Louis.

Present Occupant: Park Foreman.

Significance: The only examples of the Gothic Revival style in the Park. The structures are well-preserved examples of the picturesque design favored by British and American landscape architects in the nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The house was built in 1870; the gate was built 1870-72. Gate enlarged 1879-1880. (Tower Grove Park Comptroller's Report 1868, pp.76-156).
2. Architect: Gatehouse and vehicular gate: Probably Francis Tunica. Though the structures are commonly attributed to George L. Barnett, their picturesquely Gothic style is not in keeping with the rest of Barnett's oeuvre and there is no mention of payment to Barnett in Park Comptroller Shaw's meticulous accounts from 1868-1869. Tunica, on the other hand, received a substantial salary as an architect during the years of construction (Comptroller's Report 1868, p.72, 10/5/70), and definitely supervised the construction of these structures as evidenced by his signing suppliers' and workmen's vouchers.

For biographical information on Francis Tunica, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park. (MO-1137). The pedestrian gates were designed five years after the vehicular ones by Barnett and Taylor (TGP Comptroller's report 11875; p.104 10/13/77). For biographical information on Barnett and Taylor, see the HABS report on Tower Gove Park (MO-1137).

3. Original and subsequent owners: For description of the park property see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Construction was supervised by Francis Tunica. Masonry work was done by P. Walsh and eight other men (Comp. 1868, pp.72 and 76, 1/5 and 1/18/70) for the gatehouse. Franz Frotz-scher cut the stone for the gate (Comp. 1868, p.84, 11/13/70). Tiling was done by S. Mitchell and Co. (Comp. 1868, p.86, 11/30/70). Carpen-try on the gatehouse was the work of Joel McFern (Comp. 1868, p.90, 12/14/70) with lumber supplied by Eau Claire of St. Louis (Comp. 1868, p.106, 4/16/71). Gottlieb Eyermann and Fred Wengler supplied the build-ing stone (TGP checkbooks 1870-1871). Evans and Howard supplied "oriels for five chimneys" for \$37.50 (Comp. 1868, p.84, 11/12/70). Shickle, Harrison & Co. supplied "ten iron chimney pots, columns, girders, etc." for \$987 (Comp. 1868, p.90, 12/17/70). The iron gate was supplied by Pawley & Co. for \$730 (Comp. 1868, p.156, 2/17/72).
5. Original plans, construction, etc.: In a publication about Tower Grove Park written by Henry Shaw's secretary it is stated that the plan for the gatehouse complex was copied from the works of the British land-scape architect John Claudius Loudon.
6. Alterations and additions: The gate was enlarged in 1879-1880, by the addition of pedestrian gates designed by Barnett and Taylor. The addi-tional iron work for them was supplied by Francis Guerdan of St. Louis. (Comp. 1875, p.180, 5/2/79). The ironwork of the Central gateway was removed in 1913 (Annual Report of Board of Commissioner's, 1913, 1/19/13, pp.7-8). The gatehouse was "thoroughly renovated" in 1908 (Annual Report of Board of Commissioners, 1908, 1/12/09, p.10). In 1916 toilet facil-ities were added (Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners, 1916, 1/19/17, p.8). In 1934 the interior woodwork was partially rebuilt (Annual Report of Board of Commissioners, 1934, 1/21/35, p.8). Another renovation, costing \$7,100.00 was done in 1957 (City Building Permit, Block 2033, A-10945, 4/23/57). The House was rehabilitated as a home for the present foreman in 1970. The plumbing and carpentry work was completed in January or February (Superintendent's report January-February 1970).

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Two photographs. A view of the west flank of the house taken in 1930, and more recent details, and a 1904 post card view are in the park photo and postcard collection in Superintendent Gurney's possession. An 1883 view published in MacAdam's text and a 1916 view published in the Annual Report of 1916 have been copied.
2. Bibliography:
  - a. Primary and unpublished sources:
    1. Manuscripts, etc.: Henry Shaw's Synopsis of Work Done in the Park from 1868-1872; his Comptroller Report Books in 1868, 1875,

1882, and 1888; Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers, and checkbooks for 1867-1869; The Tower Grove Park Miscellaneous file: the Reports of the Board of Commissioners from 1869-1898 and the Superintendent's Monthly Reports 1960-1974 are in the custody of Park Superintendent Miss Bernice E. Gurney and will probably be transferred from her office at 4274 Magnolia Avenue to the Shaw Manuscript collection at the John S. Lehmann Library in the Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri by the end of the summer of 1974.

2. Deed Books and Building Permits: City Hall, Market St., St. Louis, Missouri.

b. Secondary sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing, 1899-1919.

\_\_\_\_\_. St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

\_\_\_\_\_. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

\_\_\_\_\_. St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R. P. Studley and Co., 1883.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm  
Field Historian  
National Park Service  
St. Louis, Missouri  
July, 1977

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The gatehouse and gate are in the Gothic revival style. The gate towers are the only remaining structures in the Park with a castellated appearance. The gatehouse somewhat resembles a picturesque country manor.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Irregular rectangle, composed of three contiguous blocks, approximately 76'-6" (five-bay east side) by 28'. The south block has a second story; the central and north blocks are one story. The central block is the narrowest and lowest; the north block, like the south block projects east; its roof ridge is higher than that at the central block and lower than that of the south block. The west wall is continuous, with no projections and extends south past the porch, terminating in an octagonal tower, capped with a crenelated parapet.
2. Foundations: Granite blocks, smooth-cut.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Rough-faced limestone, random ashlar of light gray color. Smooth-cut stone details include window sills, lintels and cornices.
4. Structural system: Load bearing walls.
5. Porches: The one-story porch on the south block is covered by a hip roof supported by wooden columns joined by ogee arches. The wooden trim is painted white. The cornice is modillioned. The stone wall of the house itself closes the porch on the west end and is penetrated by a square opening.
6. Chimneys: There are two paneled chimneys of tan brick. One with two round-headed panels is located over the roof ridge at the center of the south block. The other with a single round-headed panel is on the center block, west of the ridge.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There are five doors.
    1. East: The center door in the central block is sealed shut and used as a window. It has four sections of two-over-two lights. The northeast door is in the north block and has three horizontal panels below nine lights. The southeast door is in the central block and has two vertical panels under four lights, arranged two-over-two.

2. North: The door is sealed and used as a window. It is identical to the center door on the east.
  3. South: The door off the porch is the main entrance, and is identical to the northeast door.
- b. Windows: There are ten windows of varying shapes, sizes, and sash.
1. East:
    - a. North block: One horizontal eight-light window is south of the northeast door. In the center of the block at attic level is a louvered pointed-arched opening.
    - b. Central block: There are superimposed double casements in the center of the block. At the second floor level, each panel has six lights. On the main level, each panel has ten lights and a flat, four-light transom runs across their top. These are contained in a rectangular projecting bay with a crenelated parapet.
  2. South: There are no windows.
  3. West:
    - a. North block: There is a louvered, pointed-arched opening in the center of the block over a window at the main level consisting of a twelve-light sash divided into four sections, two-over-two lights in each room.
    - b. Central block: There is a small, square, six-light window to the north and a vertical six-light one to the south.
    - c. South block: There is a glazed pointed-arched single casement in the center of the block at the second floor level above a vertical two-light-casement on the main-level. There is an unglazed opening to the south of the same size as this lower window in the wall enclosed in the porch.
  4. North: One square, six-light window lies to the west of the sealed door.

C. Description of Interior:

1 Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The entrance from the porch on the south leads into the 12'-6" by 12'-8" living room, through the west wall of which a door leads to the stairhall. Both of these rooms are contained in the south block of the building. The plan is that of a 'railroad flat', the north rooms being accessible on the interior only by walking through the south rooms.

The central block contains an 11'-10" by 12'-2" kitchen and a laundry room measuring 8'-5" by 5'-1". The north block contains two bedrooms, measuring 11'-10" by 14'-6" and 6'-10" by 7'-4", and a 6'-10" by 6'-5" bathroom.

- b. Second floor: Above the living room in the south block are a bedroom and storage area, measuring 20'-10" by 12'-8".
- 2. Stairway: A quarter-turn stair leads to the second floor.
- 3. Flooring: Linoleum predominates downstairs. Upstairs the floor is tongue and groove.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The kitchen wall is plaster with tile wainscoting. The others are plaster, painted white.
- 5. Doorways and doors: The wooden doors are painted white.
- 6. Trim: There is white baseboard molding in the living room, stairhall, and second floor bedroom.

D. Description of Exterior (Gate)

- 1. Over-all dimensions: The central vehicular passage is 40' wide, the flanking towers 38'-6" high, the pedestrian gateways, 6' wide, its towers 15' high, the distance between the terminal piers of the outward-curving wall, approximately 250'.
- 2. Foundations: Granite blocks.
- 3. Wall construction, finish and color
  - a. Wall: The outward-curving wall, beginning at the gatehouse on the north and the pedestrian gate post on the south, is composed of gray rockface limestone, random ashlar. The wall is 3' high, studded with rough-cut pointed stones standing upright.
  - b. Pedestrian gateways: The six-foot-wide openings are flanked by octagonal rockface limestone towers with smooth, cut stone crenelated parapets. The north tower is attached to the extended west wall of the gatehouse. There are cast-iron gates consisting of ogee arches with trefoil tracery at the top and quatrefoils at the bases.
  - c. Vehicular gateways: Tall slender towers of the same design as those marking the pedestrian entrances are pierced with lancet windows.
  - d. Terminal piers: The terminal piers have ashlar pedestals and round shafts surmounted by large stone plates on which stand beehive-shaped, pointed stone caps.

- E. Site: The complex is well-shaded by deciduous trees; the gate wall foundations are covered with ivy. The house faces east into the Park. The complex lies about 600' south of the intersection of Kings Highway and Magnolia Avenue, near Kings Highway.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer  
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National Park Service  
St. Louis, Missouri  
August, 1975

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (architect, University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, project foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Tcrpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.